Message *of the* Governor *to the* Ninety-seventh General Assembly *of* Delaware

Delivered *at* Dover *the* Fourteenth day *of* January, A. D. Nineteen Nineteen.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Members of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware:

In the exercise of the privilege accorded by the Constitution to address you, it is well on this occasion that our first thought should be in recognition of the Guiding Providence who shapes the destiny of States and Nations.

God's clock may seem delayed, but in His own time, it strikes with forceful significance. Never in history, since the star shone over the plains of Bethlehem, has a new era been so definitely marked as when on November 11th, the Armistice was signed,—the beginning of the end of the world's greatest conflict. The Dream of Calvary is about to become a recognized fact, and the Government of Nations, as expressed in the Ideals of America, are today a potential reality. So then, in this event, and on such an occasion, may we not rededicate ourselves to our task and renew sacred oaths to face seriously the new duties before us. Of serious import always, this session of the General Assembly has in its power, the realization of a newer and better day for Delaware. An honor, always, to represent fellow citizens in halls of Legislature, there is, at this time, opportunities with attending responsibilities, heretofore unknown.

Since the last regular session of the General Assembly, the life and duties at the capitol have been one of stress and strain, taxing the time energy and thought that was ours to give. Shortly after the close of the session, those in authority voiced the honor and conviction of the Nation, and declared War against those

Nations who questioned the rights of Men as expressed in our government and who challenged the Ideals of Christianity itself. In such a struggle America could not, if true to her self and heritage, be elsewhere than in fierce conflict. Although we had hesitatingly watched for three years, we were unprepared. Those Nations, now proudly known as the Allies, were making the last, and thank God, to the last stand for Right. To u scame the proud and God-given privilege of saving the world. The call went out to the States and nobly they responded. Problems, serious and of vital moment, were presented daily. "Win the War" as a National slogan gave State Officials responsibilities heretofore unknown. In such a strife, Delaware, by sentiment as well as her very History, was in the lead at every call. For months, the State Department was on duty day and night, zealously maintaining as best it could the record of the past and serving effectively her part in the Nation's needs. The record, you know. By the devotion of associates, by the unswerving loyalty of the men and women of this State. called to counsel, my own mistakes and errors of judgment pale and you today are proud representatives of not only of the first State in history but of the first State in very service in the World War for Democracy. Unneedful for me to recite that proud record of our citizenship in this war. In every drive, whether for wealth, for time, or for man-power, Delaware responded. As I have said before, farmer and business man, profession and labor gave gladly all that was asked—and more. Equally true was the devotion of our women. Social leaders became women in Industry, our daughters worked according to the stern demands of the times and mothers gave with surpassing devotion.

But enough. The world has been made safe for Democracy. Right, as conceived by Christian Nations, has won. Victory has triumphed, bringing with it at-

tending obligations which we are to face. The Responsibilities of Peace are the issues of today.

MEMORIAL TO THE WAR HEROES.

Those of your sons who have gone out, some never to return, to give their all for God and us, are deserving of honor, which I dare not attempt to express. Only those who have given and lost can appreciate truly their sacrifice. But feebly, as it of necessity must be, should we not at this session give some concrete recognition to the work which was theirs?

Monuments and marble shafts are so coldly silent as memorials to the deeds of Men, can we not here make possible something more living that these silent sentinels of the dead. So sublimely true, as they were, to that proud past of Delaware, it has occurred to me that nothing more simple and more peculiarly fitting could be given than an addition to the State House. The original building is linked with memories of '76 and Freedom, the addition made in 1910 was made possible by the service of Delaware, rendered the Nation in 1812. To commemorate the heroes of today with those of yesterday in this building, will give them a well deserved honor. The glories of the son and the glories of the father will blend and afford to us and those who follow, an inspiration to hold true, to perfect and make effective in practical legislation those institutions for which they made supreme sacrifice to create and preserve. The authorization of the last General Assembly to purchase what is known as the Kent County Building and the pressing need for additional office space presents a practical phase to this recommendation.

This addition made in architectural keeping with the present structure, decorated with paintings depicting the events and periods commemorated, illustrated by the

painting which graces the Senate Chamber, would be a Memorial in interesting association with the life and history of the State. I commend this for your consideration.

In this connection, I should like to see some suitable CITIZENS MEMORIAL worthy of the character honored and designed for service of those of us left here to "Carry on." In this, every community and school district should be actively represented, and suitably commemorated.

May I further suggest that you make some provision for State official reception for those honored sons soon to return to our homes and activities. This occasion should be marked not by any pomp and ceremony, but in simplicity, reflecting the life of our people. To have those Sons and Soldiers of Delaware assemble on Dover Green would bring an inspiration to us and our children, and show to them our true hearts' apprecpiation.

COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

Shortly after the declaration of War, there was formed at Washington, the National Council of Defense, composed of members of the President's Cabinet. Following this, the States were asked to make provisions for State Councils of Defense, the duties of which were to mobilize the thought, interest and energy of the Nation for service. After insistent demands on the part of National authorities, with recognition of the oath of office taken as Governor and a desire that the honor of the State be maintained, I called a Special Session of General Assembly and recommended that such a Council be provided upon statutory basis, in order that the State as a State, might perform effectively the duties imposed. Provision was made according to National request and

the Council of Defense was created. The work accomplished, a detailed report of which will be presented for your review, has been such as to receive high praise from those of the National Council. Thinking citizenship will note with just pride the work accomplished by this organization.

In the Act creating the Council, you will note that bilities, the neglect of which, makes us all sadly derelict after ratification of Peace treaty by the U. S. Senate. This provision was made in case that the War ceased in interim of Sessions of General Assembly. Now that the Armistice has been signed and the activities of the Defense Council are not emergency needs, I have this day, upon recommendation of the Council of Defense for this State, caused to cease the work of most of the committees. National Council, however, urges strongly its continued work. Their recommendations will be presented to you with the report of Council.

The Committees however, having to do with Health, Child Welfare, Legal Advice to Soldiers, and Community Center, I have commended and because I believe these activities to be absolutely essential have urged the present committees to continue until you have had opportunity to consider and make some provision for the continuance of these very vital activities.

In presenting the report of the Defense Council, I shall urge that some provision be made to take care of such work. Many of the States are dissolving the Council of Defense and creating organizations of more permanent character to take care of those many problems coming before us in the readjustment period of life and business, spoken of and discussed as Reconstruction.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The word Reconstruction is the catch-word of the hour and promises to be much misused by enthusiastic yet impractical reformers and equally perhaps, abused by ultra conservatives, satisfied with things as they are. Yet there is upon us a period of readjustment in the life of our institutions and government which challenge our best thought and energy. Its problems are of serious import in this State. Both in Nation and State, we are not at all well prepared for the shock of Peace that is bound to come. With all the sad sacrifices of the War, we have at the same time learned some valuable lessons. Reconstruction in Delaware, presents questions which you and I cannot take too seriously. If we are to approach in our daily living at home, conditions and privileges for which we have fought abroad, we have obligations trembling with opportunity and responsibilities, the neglect of which makes us all sadly derelict in the duties imposed.

The Nation looks upon Delaware and her service in this War with rightful admiration. We exceeded the quota assigned in every activity and drive. Far be it from me to cast reflection on that deserved honor. It is a proud boast and well earned fact. But this must not blind us to the duties here at home. We can ill afford longer to be satisfied with other than the best. Proud as I am of your State and mine, I am not less loyal when I admit that there are conditions existing that must be corrected.

Then Reconstruction in Delaware is no mere theory but a hard, stern reality. Understand I wish, in no sense, to speak disparagingly of our success and progress in recent years. I am as proud of this advance as you. But the close attention to affairs, incident to this War, has revealed facts and conditions hitherto undreamed of.

In view of this knowledge I speak feelingly and with emphasis, that we cannot afford longer to be satisfied except we advance in all our State and institutional life.

Our well earned laurels gained in the Nation's service do not lessen our serious responsibilities in State institutions and affairs. Our satisfaction with things as they are is due, perhaps, not so much to lack of interest or actual neglect, as to lack of information and facts.

So I claim that Reconstruction is of very vital moment and if the problems can be approached in the spirit of service, we can render account to our constituents worthy of any honest ambition and make possible a better Delaware.

HEALTH.

Reconstruction in Delaware, to my mind if we perform well our duty, means a revision of our health laws and administration that we may be in keeping with regulation and scientific standards, and included in the National Health Registration Area. A complete survey of Health conditions made at instigation of National authorities will be presented which will reveal conditions demanding our immediate attention.

EDUCATION.

Reconstruction in Delaware means that educational advantages, including modern equipment, consolidation of schools, superintendents, better trained teachers, with salaries in keeping with service rendered, shall be at least the equal of our sister states. To speak of being first of service in the Nation's crisis, and thirty-third in education, and thirty-fourth in illiteracy, shows plainly a duty not yet performed. We give our all to protect our institutions abroad. May we not give more to perfect them at home? The Delaware citizenship of to-

morrow and its ability to cope with its problems depend seriously on the thought and action of you men here today. In very fact, gentlemen, the welfare and future of the State, according to the provisions made here, is your opportunity and responsibility. May I bespeak your time and best judgment on this problem.

CHILD WELFARE.

Reconstruction means that the work of Child Welfare as instituted and carried on with such remarkable success and results must be continued. Until you have had opportunity to fix permanently this activity upon statutory basis as it exists in most states, I have urged that the work be continued by those now in charge.

The report of this work with statistics that will startle you, will, I am sure, challenge your immediate action in granting full and ample facilities to carry on effectively the Campaign of Child Welfare.

AMERICANIZATION.

Reconstruction means that every foreign-born resident of this State shall be offered opportunity to learn our language and thereby be better able to become able our language and thereby be better able to become a part of our citizenship. Further, I would present for your consideration, the advisability of some compulsory law, providing that all those residents of Delaware who enjoy the privileges and protection accorded, shall learn to speak the language of our people.

Practically all the States are now considering Americanization. To this end, it would seem practical that representatives of the several adjoining States' Legislatures hold a Conference and by discussion and agreement make uniform the Legislation effecting non-English speaking residents.

GOOD ROADS.

Reconstruction in Delaware means that the Good Roads program started in this State must be continued to the very limit of our support and conducted on business methods to the limit of our finances.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

Reconstruction in Delaware means that Labor and Capital must work for the interest of State and Society with the same co-operation shown during the period of the War. Combinations of capital with its initiative and risk, and Labor with its sacrifices and energy must have equal voice in administration of affairs as they have equal rights before the law. The leadership of each must recognize the interest of the other and that idea of superiority of one without recognizing the essentials of the other, leads always to misunderstanding. Each has its rightful place and only by honest and co-operative relationship with admission and understanding of mutual interests can society make its true advance.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

In my Inaugural Address, I made known my position on Women's Suffrage. The work of Woman in this Crisis has illustrated convincingly her value and ability in the actual duties of citizenship. Not only in the tender tasks of mercy, as in previous wars, but also in the stern realities and hardships of the work-a-day world. She has proved her worth in a crisis that none dare dispute her ability, her energy and her influence.

Those who cling to that fading argument that public life and interest, lessen those graces found in Delaware womanhood, pay them feeble and ill conceived compliment. For during the past year, our women have

withstood the strain equally with the men, and grace still the home. In simple justice then to those who have asked for this right, we should grant franchise to the women of Delaware.

BUSINESS METHODS.

Reconstruction in Delaware means that we adopt better and more modern business methods in the Administration of State affairs. Every well operated and successful business organization takes periodically an inventory of stock and equipment, investigates and adopts revised systems that will more efficiently control the increased volume of business. Methods that served well twenty-five years ago would not be thought of now in any successful private organization. What is true of the Commercial activities is true of State Administration. Systems in State offices that were successful ten years ago, are now obsolete, expensive and inefficient.

A revision in accounting methods of purchasing, and bookkeeping, according to approved standards, not only make more effective the work but at a less overhead cost. Some of these changes, I may say, have been subject of experiment during the past year which when presented to you will substantiate the claim.

Then State Craft in Delaware to serve best can be attained by the introduction of methods approved by other successful organizations.

Such inventories of our State and County Government, of our school system, our institutions and various organizations have been made by experts. The facts revealed collected for the first time in concrete practical form, will be presented to you within a few days for your information, and I am sure will receive your interested attention. Prepared not as an investigation, but

as a survey, they present conditions in inventory form. Further, by analysis and comparison with methods and practices in other States, we gain from their experiments and experience.

STATEMENT OF FINANCE.

A concise statement of the State's finances may be of interest at this moment. There is being prepared a full and complete report to be presented to you for your information and guidance in making appropriation.

The receipts for the past two years from all the departments have far exceeded the amount ever before received in same period. There will be on January 13th, the end of the fiscal year, an approximate balance of $475,000.00 in the General fund.

INTEREST ON DEPOSIT.

The Farmers' Bank of Delaware, in which the State, as you know, is an interested stockholder, have agreed with me that interest should be paid on State and County monies. Beginning on January 1st of this year, interest on daily balances will be allowed. This is in keeping with the business methods, as applied to State affairs and will mean a substantial increase in the State Revenue.

LAW

In the Department of Law, I wish to call your attention to several specific recommendations. In consideration of the large and continued increase in business of the office of the Attorney General and the necessity of the maximum efficiency possible in this Department, I would suggest—

1. The Creation of a State Detective Bureau, under

the control of the Attorney General, which should have charge of the investigation of all offenders throughout the State.

2. An increase of the Contingent Fund of the Attorney General and also an increase in the requisition fund. A most casual investigation will show how essential this is.

3. To assist in taking care of the increased volume of business and making possible the quick despatch of same, I would recommend an additional Deputy Attorney General with State-wide duties and powers.

4. Amendment to the Drug Act of this State, providing for greater penalties upon conviction of offenders.

An increase in the salaries of this very important office is presented for your consideration. In this connection may I urge strongly the provision for substantial increase in the salaries of our Judiciary. The increased cost of maintaining their position, their office making it impossible to devote any time to other work for financial consideration, their increased duties make such, to my mind, absolutely necessary. Of all departments of State our Judges should be relieved of all anxiety and strain, and be kept free from those worries incident to making a living. I hope you will consider this favorably. Aside from the practical considerations named, the very dignity of the office is sufficient appeal.

NATIONAL GUARD AND MILITARY TRAINING.

In view of the fact that the future Miltary Policy for the United States will no doubt be taken up by Congress in the near future and that the National Guard of the several States and Territories will be considered, it is recommended that no change be made in the State law until Congress has acted in the matter.

While speaking of this subject, I should like to call to your attention, the necessity for some physical or military training in our public schools. The physical training and military discipline, incident to camp life experienced during the past year, proves conclusively that here is an opportunity for service in our schools. Viewing the advantages from either a civil or military emergency standpoint, it is worthy of consideration. Certainly, at least, we can by some such training better the physical development of our young men.

LOW LANDS.

Now that the State Highway system is started, the need for scientific drainage becomes almost imperative if we apply to Road Construction ordinary business foresight. In my Inaugural Address, I spoke of the necessity of some provision for the reclamation of our Low Lands. Something definite should be commenced at once. It presents a problem of business that none can dare dispute its wisdom. I hope you will investigate the possibilities here presented. In handing you the report of the Drainage Commission and of the Highway Department, I shall speak further of this and ask for some practical action.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT BOARD.

The work of the Industrial Accident Board merits your congratulation. Aside from performing the duties provided by the statute, it has done much to create more cordial relations between employer and employee. I would ask, however, that you consider reducing the time limit of waiting for benefit from fourteen to seven days and that the fee of $25.00 allowed for medical service for an injured employee be increased to a sum commensurate with the case.

TEMPERANCE.

Voicing, I believe, the opinion of a large majority of the State electorate, as well as the whole people, and expressing the decided trend of the times, I recommend that such Temperance Legislation be enacted that will make this State by statute, in keeping with the Act of Congress and that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors be made illegal on and after July 1st, 1919.

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES.

In the consideration of legislation regulating traffic, I wish to strongly urge the enactment of a law, making compulsory for all vehicles on public highways to display light at night. The increased traffic of automobiles makes some such provision necessary if we take note, at all, for the public safety.

THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

The City of Wilmington, always Delaware's boast, has during the past two years become of National importance and is so recognized. Due to its varied manufacturing interests, so directly vital in the conduct of the war, its citizens have realized probably for the first time the wonderful opportunities for development and growth along the Delaware. So rapid has been this growth that Wilmington might be said to have outgrown itself. There will probably be much legislation offered, making possible better educational facilities, better public utilities, development of harbor interests, and more efficient governmental control and conduct of its affairs. For this I bespeak the interested attention, especially of the rural membership of the General Assembly. A better understanding and appreciation of Wilmington's needs mean, in the final analysis, Statewide development and interest.

A survey of the City Government, similar to that made for State and County, is now being prepared, which will present facts of the City organization in its several departments.

PARDONS AND PAROLES.

I am transmitting herewith Record of Pardons and Paroles granted since the meeting of the last General Assembly.

CONCLUSION.

This is, gentlemen, in brief an outline of the policy I wish to present to you for your consideration. More specific recommendations will be made to you when the various reports and special surveys are presented. Some of the changes proposed may seem radical but to my mind, the State cannot realize its opportunities, perform its full obligations to our citizens or make the true advance possible unless we take serious action.

I hope in all this that I have not presumed in any way on the functions of the Legislative Department. My frank discussion of the problems as I see them is made only as an offer of close relationship with you in the service of our constituents. I ask that you be equally free with the Executive Department. The stress of the past two years has brought out the best that is in us. Now that Peace approaches let us not slip back into the sordidness of material things, and play for selfish and partisan position. The opportunity is too great, the responsibility too serious, to think otherwise.

To make Delaware, in actual reality, the place we think of in personal sentiment is possible. To us comes this privilege. Let our Reconstruction be a Rededication.

By so working together and at the same time enlisting the thought of the citizenship at large, by confiding always in them, we can, at this time, render a service truly worth while.

And SERVICE is the big word today in the language of citizenship.